American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Esther Morse Papers, 1921 – 1965

Series I a

Outgoing Typed Letters

Folder Description:

Correspondence: 1930, Term I, 1

Box Number:

3

Folder Number:

18

Miscellany

The letters are divided according to Terms of service, principally as my own convenient division.

Term I is not original letters, as previously explained, but are typed in four binders.

Letters during furloughs were not kept by the family. At the end of each term, therefore, are Interim Data for the period of furlough in the United States.

This Interim material is largely for myself and was taken from my diary and my memory. However, it has been inserted at the end of each term and may have entries which you are able to use.

Editing:

Term I only is involved, 1930-1936, written 34 to 40 years ago. There is no editing, beyond a few mechanical items. These were several things my sister could not do, or which were difficult or time-consuming, to do on the typewriter.

1. The way the time of day was written: $(10\frac{30}{AM})$
2. The word "with" written as "$\overline{c}$", a medical type of shorthand.
3. The use of the symbol "&" for "and" which was used so frequently that it was much simpler and quicker to write out the word than to shift the typewriter carriage for the symbol.

The frequent use of the dash for the comma is retained in the copying.

It was my sister's purpose to copy as exactly as possible--even to an occasional misspelled word.

In the 1930's she was not the professional typist she later became, so there are crossovers, crossouts, and penned corrections, but aside from the above-mentioned mechanical items, there is no editing.

All the typed material has been proofread.

How can, or how do, you use such personal letters as these?

To what use are they put--and how?

E. Morse

My father - Charles L. Morse, addressed as Papa or Dad. d. 1-1945

My sister - Alice (Morse) Brehm, addressed as Alice. Husband: Jess
She d. 1932.

Her children:

Faye (Brehm) Goode d. 1950 Husband: Blaine
2 children: Jesse and Fayrene

Ruth (Brehm) (Bowyer) Smith " Chat

Edna (Brehm) Peterson " Lyman
3 children: Donna, Carrie, Alfred

Polly (Brehm) Gilliland " Max d.1967
3 children: Kenneth, Connie, Linford

Alice Jessie (Brehm) Martin d. 1965 " Clinton
2 children: Larry, Arlene

Dick Brehm Wife: Josephine
3 children: Ed, Ruth, Tom (who d. Viet Nam)

My brother - A. C. Morse, addressed as Clayton, Clayt, A.C., or Al.

My sister - Ruth Evelyn (Morse) Parkhurst, addressed as Ruth or
Ruth Evelyn Husband: Austin d. 1965

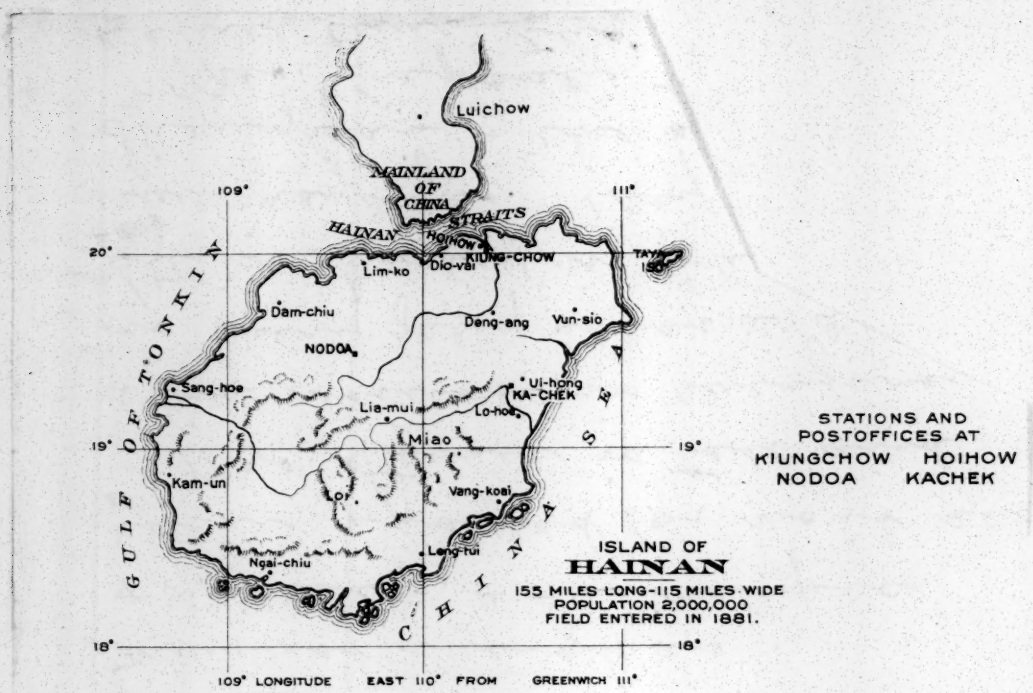
Largely through habit and for positive identification, I have signed my full name "Esther Morse" to all letters; in fact, in a majority of these letters which are to my family. During the later years I note I used "Esther" much oftener; in fact, most of the time. A few times I have signed "Esh", a childhood nickname given me by my sister Ruth.

INVENTORY OF THE COPIES OF LETTERS WRITTEN BY DR. ESTHER MORSE

		pages	additional pages*
TERM I (COPIES IN FOUR BINDERS)			
Binder 1.	Aug. 23, 1930 - Mar. 8, 1931	1 to 107	5
Binder 2.	March 1, 1931 - Aug. 31, 1932	108 to 318	17
Binder 3.	Sept. 4, 1932 - July 1, 1934	319 to 522	5
	Notes and jottings on trip to Yunnan, 1934		19
Binder 4.	July 15, 1934 - June 8, 1936	523 to 713	
	Interim notes: June, 1936 - Nov. 1937		10
	Various letters, 1930 - 1932		20
TERM II			
	Nov. 20, 1937 - Dec. 6, 1941	714 to 1082	6
	Interim data, 1941 - 1943		28
TERM III			
	Nov. 16, 1943 - Aug. 9, 1948	1083 to 1370	1
	Interim data, 1948 - 1949		6
TERM IV	Aug. 17, 1949 - April 30, 1953	1371 to 1566	2
	Interim data, May 1, 1953 - Sept. 15, 1954		8
TERM V			
	Sept. 16, 1954 - Dec. 11, 1959	1567 to 1846	
	Interim data, April 29, 1960 - Oct. 1960 (letters)		35
	Interim data, Oct. 1, 1959 - Oct. 2, 1960 (diary notes)		7
TERM VI			
	Octo. 12, 1960 - Nov. 29, 1963	1847 to 2013	
		2013	166

Total number of pages 2179.

* Note from Mrs. A. F. Parkhurst
"I would sometimes have to wait for Esther's letters to be sent from the family and at times a letter would appear late after I had typed subsequent ones. In that event, I added these late letters at the end of that binder with pagination thus: p. 110, for example, would be followed by 110-a, 110-b, etc. Then on p. 110 at the point where the late letter should appear, I placed a notation, usually in longhand, referring to p. 110-a."



ISLAND OF
HAINAN

155 MILES LONG-115 MILES WIDE
POPULATION 2,000,000
FIELD ENTERED IN 1881.

STATIONS AND
POSTOFFICES AT
KIUNGCHOW HOIHOW
NODOA KACHEK

S. S. President Jackson
About 12:30--Aug. 23

Dear Alice:

Your letter was received a short time ago--with the others you had forwarded--and many thanks for the letter and your good wishes.

Beginning where my last letter left off--when we came up to Seattle Tuesday AM--having done our washing and ironing on Monday we stopped first at Sears, Roebuck and Co. and I got a corset and sweater and a set of silver and some stationery and a slip all for about half of what I had estimated I'd have to pay. Then we went out to Franks and found they practically had a program arranged for our stay. We had dinner with them Tues. evening and Ellie was over (Abe is in Wenatchee this week). The next day we went out to camp--that,is, to Frank's summer home and were there most of the day. We came back and had a lovely dinner at Ellie's. On Thurs. Gretta had planned the affair for me--so in the AM I went in to the city and had my ticket validated and got some travelers cheques. In the PM was the 'hencaucus' as A.C. called it. He and Dad and Jay went out to see the Government airport while the affair was on. There were about twenty-five ladies present and we talked, etc. and some singing was done and I had to give a short talk, and cookies and tea were served and that was about all. I tried to see how many names and faces I could associate together and I was able to call about half the ladies by name when I said goodbye to them.

That evening we all went out to Faye's--had a wonderfully fine time and a splendid dinner. Ruth and I stayed all night there. Ruth Brehm bunked on the cot--not too comfortably, I'm afraid. In the AM, Clayton and Dad came out and the four of us (Faye tho't she shouldn't go but stay and have supper ready for all of us again) went to the pier-to find the way there and to see the President Jackson. Then we had lunch and after that I called on the doctors I was supposed to. Dr. Hiltner had been in China 14 years but has a very pessimistic attitude toward the country and conditions there. He talked and talked and it was hard to get away. Then we went out to Faye's again and again R. and I spent the nite there. Blaine said he'd bake hot cakes in the AM if Dad and AC would come out and they did and he did and it was a fine breakfast.

I found the steamer sailed at 11:00 AM instead of 6:00PM. so we had to come down rather soon after breakfast. Dad, Ruth, A. C. and I were at the pier at 9:00 AM. Blaine, Faye and Mrs. Goode came about 9:30 or thereabouts, Ellie Underhill and a friend about 10:00 and Frank and Gretta and children about 10:15. The group was so large that it was hard to keep together and we didn't get all over the ship as we would have liked. Ruth wanted to see the dining room especially and there wasn't time after the whole group was together. I'm sorry about it--but it isn't

an exceptional room in any way.

Ruth Brehm wasn't able to get off to some to the steamer--she asked but her boss had to be away so she had to stay. She seems well and in good spirits but would so much like to come home for a visit.

Faye and Blaine certainly have improved their place--and seem very happy together.

Saying goodbye to Dad was rather hard but I think I was smiling as long as he could see--even when Ellie loaned him the binoculars.

We can mail this at Victoria so am trying to get all written I can. Thanks for sending the polish, et cetera, but you didn't need to do that. Thanks, tho', anyway.

Love to you and Jess and the family.

Yours--Esther

You handled the affidavit matter entirely Okeh and thanks 'heaps much.! Esh

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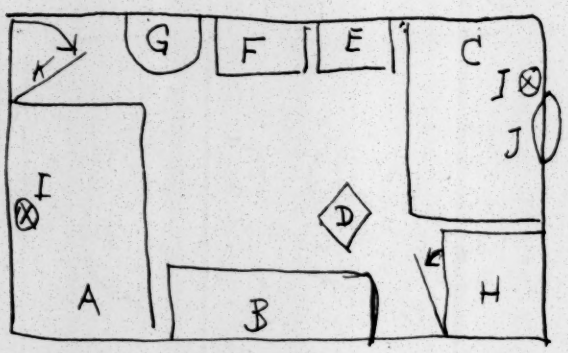
S. S. Pres Jackson
Aug. 23, 1930-3:00 PM

Dear Edna:

The enclosed guest list will give you a little information about the boat and its passengers. This isn't the largest vessel by any means, that plys across the Pacific but it seems quite complete to me. My cabin is way down in the ship--only the steerage below us. It is quite a nice room--two single beds and a settee--two dressers and mirrors--one lavatory and a small closet--and one port hole. There are electric fans over each bed. This is a sketch of the cabin:



A--my bed
B--Settee
C--Bunkie's bed
D--Chair
E--Dresser
F--Dresser
G--Lavatory
H--Closet
I--Fans
J--Porthole
K--Door

You can tell about how much space we have on the main deck --it takes eleven times around it to make a mile. The lower deck is glassed in so it won't be half bad even if it storms. As we move along here we can feel a little vibration and can hear the rush of water outside but feel no roll at all. Of course, this is still within the sound.

My roommate is Katherine Jacobson going to Canton for 3 years to teach music in one of the high schools. She is sailing under the Presbyterian Board, also. She is slender and short and blonde. I think I will like her a lot.

Gretta and Ellie each left a big bouquet for me in the stateroom and two ladies whom I met at Gretta's on Thursday gave me bouquets and Miss Jacobson has one, too, so we can hardly see the mirrors over our dressers now. Her flowers are all lavender--asters and chrysanthemums. The others are mostly red and pink gladiolas and a few red dahlias and white hydrangeas and golden glow. There is one bouquet of red and pink roses, too. They are all very lovely. Miss Jacobson says they make our room smell like a funeral.

We are due in Victoria soon so must say Adios--and let the postman have this.

I haven't investigated your packages fully yet but thanks heaps much anyway. More later.

Love to you--
Yours--
Esther Morse

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8-24-30

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Routh to Hongkong

Dear Edna: This is the luncheon meno card for today and I have marked what I had to eat. It is served with considerable attention to detail and may be more or less elaborate as one chooses. So far I have tried to choose simple meals. While eating we can see the ocean when the ship rolls and brings the water to view. I timed the interval between glimpses and found it about ten seconds. It doesn't affect me much except to make me rather dizzy when I first get up. Have not felt nauseated so far.

Saw a ship passing today. It was about 8 or 10 miles away but we could see it plainly. They tell us we are running at about 18 or 20 miles per hour.

Esther

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(8-24-30

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong

Dear Ruth--This is the dinner menu for tonite and I have indicated

my choice. It was very good. There is a small orchestra which plays at noon and in the evening--piano, violin, guitar or banjo, saxophone or clarinet, and traps. Tonite there were a few persons in evening dress who danced. The number of evening clothes displayed so far has been very limited--most everyone has sleeves in the gowns. There is some smoking among the women but relatively little considering the number of people aboard.

I walked quite a bit today--perhaps a mile and a half. It is rather nice to do it--I don't feel the roll of the vessel as much that way as I do when sitting still. Am dizzy rather often because I'm not used to the roll yet. In general, tho', it has been very nice. The air and sun have been lovely today.

Dr. Dunlap held services at 11:00 AM today. They were very nice--text--"Let not your heart be troubled."

The next cabin--NO. 37--is occupied by a couple of priests and the bulletin states that mass is held every morning.

Adios,
Esther

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(8-25-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to China

Dear Ruth: Was awakened this AM by sunshine outside our porthole but by the time I got up it was gray and has continued so all day. Walked some this AM and about a mile this PM. I went to supper but had to stop eating now and again until I was less dizzy. My bunkie is a good sailor despite the fact this is her first trip.

There is a beauty parlor on the ship and one girl got a shampoo and finger wave this afternoon and they charged her $2.25!

The cards and packages are lots of fun--I can hardly wait to open them. The cat in the boat was todays card--and so far things have gone 'purr-fectly' on the 'high C's'! Am in bed now and will stay here and hope for calm tomorrow!

Esh

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(8-25-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong.

Dear Edna:

The sky has been gray all day, the wind has been getting cooler and stronger, spray now dashes on the deck occasionally-- but the steamer plows steadily on. That is an interesting and remarkable thing--one looks out on the waves--all alike and yet we are constantly and steadily leaving them behind--and an example of power, truly.

We have nade arrangements with the 'bath boy' to be called at certain times for our baths--so there will be no conflict with many persons using only a few tubs. Our hour is 7:30 each AM and when we go in the bath room there is a tub full of warm water and fresh towels ready for us. Miss Jacobson uses one tub while I use the other but she usually beats me thro'. (The tubs are each in little compartments by themselves!)

The 'room boy ' has just bro't in fresh water and towels and has opened the beds for the night.

Adios

Esther

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(8-26-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to China

Dear Edna: This has been a foggy day--the fog horn has blown at intervals all day. I haven't walked much--not even enough for exercise. I seem to have an infinite capacity for sleep and inasmuch as there is no reason for not sleeping, I'm doing a great deal of it!

There was a dance tonite--evening dresses and stiff shirts etc., but I didn't attend--instead listened to two missionaries from Japan tell their experiences when they first went out there many years ago.

Am sleepy again so Adios

Esther

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(8-27-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to China

Dear Ruth: Has been foggy and cloudy all day. The sea is rough. There were some deck games this PM that permitted folks to gamble--if they wished. While they were going on Mr. French and I went over on the other side and started playing deck golf. The captain came along and as it is a new game this trip, wanted to try his hand at it, so he and I played a game. Think of it! The honor of playing with the Captain! I was quite 'set up'! Katherine Jacobson was so provoked--she hasn't even seen the captain yet! and she wants to ever so much. I'd never had a golf club in my hand before today so you can imagine the quality of my playing! But the Captain was scarcely any better!

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(8-27-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to China

Dear Edna:

I started the day blithely and am finishing it--in bed. The waves became higher this PM and it made me feel queer so I am in bed and feel Okeh as long as I stay quiet. Hope it doesn't last long.

Played deck golf with the Captain this PM too--quite an honor for the Captain doesn't often appear on the promenade deck. I felt all "puffed up." By the way, I'm eating like a hog and getting to weigh like one too!

Yours--

Esther

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8-26-30

Dear Dad:

It is foggy at times this AM and again the sun shines thro '. We tried walking around a bit but the deck was so crowded with games and youngsters that we gave it up for the time being. There must be all of a dozen children aboard--all the way from infants in arms to about twelve or so. They seem to be entirely happy and play and yell all over the place. Where we had our pictures taken seems to be a favorite place for the youngsters to play--it is warm and protected there most of the time.

I haven't got awfully well acquainted with many passengers yet. We are seated at the table with Miss Bixby and Mrs. Fisher who are returning to Japan, and a Miss Clause who is going to Japan for the first time. These three ladies are all under the Baptist Board. Miss Clause is from Ohio and I have a feeling she is homesick and spprehensive already. She is a sweet clever thing tho'.

Must go down now and get ready for lunch. Am in the writing room which is just off the tea-room on the boat deck. Am learning new places all the time.

Adios for now--

Esther

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(8-28-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to Hongkong

Dear Alice Jessie:

This menu card is rather a fake--for me, at least. I spent today in bed and had only toast and coffee and toast and tea for my meals. Thank goodness, tho' I didn't get really sick--staying in bed seemed to prevent most of that.

Have been reading quite a bit--read one of the books I had with me and a book from the ship's library today. The ships book was 'A Son of China' by Sheng-Cheng. It was very interesting.

My roommate has felt fine the whole way--hasn't even been dizzy and has a <u>big</u> appetite.

Love to you-

Esther

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong 8-30-30

Dear Alice Jessie:

This is the day after crossing the 180th meridan and so we have no Friday this week--went to sleep Thursday nite and woke up Saturday morning! Have had a lovely day today--sunshine, blue waves and blue sky.

Tonite was advertised as a costume party. Some of the costumes were very striking--several Arabs, a Spanish girl, a boy Scout, Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy, lots of Chinese costumes and one Korean costume. One Filipino lady wore an elaborate native Filipino costume that was very attractive. There were lots of other costumes that can't be classified, of course. I didn't costume--just wore my old black dress. I have not worn the blue chiffon yet- am saving it for the Captain's dinner when everyone is supposed to wear their most elaborate clothes.

My roommate has 'gobs' of gorgeous clothes.

Yours--
Esther

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(8-30-30)
On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to China

Dear Ruth--

Think I'm almost back to normalcy again. Have spent most of the day as usual. The Costume dinner and dance occurred tonite. There were several interesting costumes--many foolish ones, too. The Captain danced tonite--the first time I'd seen him on the floor. He looked sort of bored! When you make your sea voyage have some costume for such an occasion!

Must try to get some pictures tomorrow--it has been such cloudy weather most of the time. We are running ahead of schedule, I'm told, so our speed has been cut down to 14 knots an hour instead of 18! Are due in Yokohama in five or six days more. Am losing all track of time.

Yours, Esther

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August 30, 1930

Dear Folks:

We went to sleep Thursday nite--and lo! this is Saturday morning and a nice day.

Sometime Wednesday it got rather rough and by 4:00 o'clock I was quite nauseated tho' I didn't vomit. I felt quite good if I just lay still. So I did it all nite and all day yesterday. Felt Okeh in bed but rather groggy if I got up. I ate sparingly, but regularly, tho' and got up this AM feeling much better.

Form A.M.L. 313
7.27.1928—5M.

AMERICAN MAIL LINE
OCEAN LETTER

From SS.	Date	Time	By
kdpa	8-30 1930	1907g	cs

Receiving Form

Posted by	Date	Time	Reg. Rec.

THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED BY S. S. President Grant FROM S. S. President Jackson

FOR DELIVERY TO

BY SPECIAL DELIVERY REGISTERED MAIL. 8 KDPA 39 PresJackson Aug 30 1930

To Charles L Morse
South Prairie (Wash)

Am enjoying the daily packages and letters greatly Thanks to all of you The "Date line" package drew a huge laugh The winds and waves have not incapacitated me seriously thus far Love

Esther

1907g 30th cs

(Made in U.S.A.)

The vessel still rolls considerably but I am feeling better right along. At any rate I cheated the fishes!

Mrs. Fisher who has had many years of experience on the Field suggests I should make a will as soon as possible because if any one makes an exitus on the Field without a will, all the possessions of that person revert to the American consul and are sold at auction. That is something else to think of, isn't it?

Am sending a note to you today by radio to another vessel, who will take it in to Seattle and send it registered to you. We learned we could do this and it will reach you about 2 weeks earlier than any other mail possibly could.

One of the steamer letters I had from the Oil City ladies had a draft for $10.00 in it--with suggestions to use it for myself. So far I haven't had to cash any traveler's cheques--but they, other travelers, tell us we are expected to tip the room boy and table boy--and goodness knows how many others, before we leave. They do give fine service, tho'.

More anon--

Esther

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8-30-30

Dear Jess;

This is the way we have the daily news served to us each morning. Much of the news doesn't interest me very much. I did send an Ocean Letter to Dad, tho'-tho't he'd be interested and it would be well worth the money. I feel rather flush since I found a draft for $10.00 in one of the steamer letters from a woman in Oil City. Tho't it was awfully nice of her.

There is a laundry aboard ship but they charge twenty cents for doing up a nightgown or slip, and four cents apiece for handkerchiefs, so I'm doing my own and hanging them on the foot of the bed. So far, no one has raised any objections!

The room is heated by an electric heater so we've been comfortable most of the time. The air is quite fresh.

So many of the passengers are going out to the Orient for special work--not just as tourists. There are quite a few going to Japan to teach in various sorts of schools and several whole families returning to China. One Englishman is going to China to do Y. M. C. A. work. He is tall and reminds me of my cousin Abram Underhill, in Seattle, very much. He has a very interesting family of youngsters with him--four of them, ranging age from 14 to 6.

Hope you are getting rested from the strenuous efforts of harvesting. Best of wishes,

Esther

(8-31-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to Hongkong

Dear Alice Jessie:

This has been a lovely day--sunny most of the time. I walked about a mile and a half this morning--that would be about 16 times around the deck.

We had church service at 11:00 AM and about 5:00 PM a group met to sing favorite songs.

This evening there was a movie--free, of course--and almost all the passengers attended. I was almost too sleepy to see it. Afterwards we walked around the deck a few times to see the moon --it is lovely and there is a bright moon path across the water.

Now we are ready for bed and are investigating the fruit our room boy left for us--pears,and apples tonite.

Yours-- E. Morse.

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(8-31-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong

Dear Folks: This has been our second Sunday on the waves--has been a pleasant, warn day too, Had church at 11:00 in the social room. Dr. Warnshuis of the International Missionary Council gave the message.

This PM about 5:00 a group met about the piano and sang hymns for an hour. It was a fine time, I tho't.

Had you noticed how the piano was held in position? By three rods from the three main corners of the grand piano fastened to a ringbolt in the floor. And the heavier settees and chairs have hooks anchoring them to the floors, too.

Have read "Joy is My Name" and "Seven Woods" since I've been aboard--both late novels from the ship's library and both are sordid tales--quite a waste of time, I've considered.

Have been so tired and sleepy all day--some one told me that weariness is a form of sea sickness--if so, then I have it!

Adios.

Yours,

Esther

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(9-1-30)

On Board the S/ S. President Jackson En Route to Hongkong

Dear Polly:

The special Persian melon which I ordered this morning didn't seem very different from the ordinary muskmelon I was used to at home. And notice that I ordered cocoa--coffee hasn't tasted good since the day I didn't feel very good!

It is cloudy and gray and cool today. Have been on deck only a little. Have written letters a bit and have talked with May Foy, the Chinese girl who is aboard. She is quite pretty and loves a good time but doesn't dance. Her father, with whom she is traveling doesn't approve of dancing.

Your Aunt Esther

- - - - - -

9/1/30

Dear Folks:

Yesterday was a lovely day--sunny and quiet. The service at 11:00 AM was good and well attended. The offering, which goes to the Seaman's Fund, was $11.27. Not so bad, eh?

By the way, when the funds from the N. Y. Life policy show up--don't bother to send them to me. Take out what I owe you, Dad--it will be all of $50.00 I know, and let Ruth and Alice have the rest. It would cost something to send it--and there is a special draft must be used, too--and it might better help R. E. M. in her preparations for whatever she plans to do--or Alice. Let it be my P. G. (parting gift)! And if you can use it instead of them, please do so, and don't send it to me. Thanks heaps much.

Yours
Esther

See p. 10-a, following p. 107. - - - - - -

September 1, 1930

Dear Alice:

Under separate covers I am sending daily notes to the children by means of menus, and a newspaper to Jess--but tho't I'd try to write a letter to you which might sort of include a few things I might not have stated else where.

I have been enjoying the packages and cards a great deal and wondered if you knew what all was in the big package Ruth prepared for me, with your help.

The first was a card with picture of a ship--"Bon Voyage-Even if I can't pronounce it!" The second was a little portfolio in the shape of a grip--containing some lovely lavendar notepaper--the kind that is paper and envelope all in one. Next was a card with a big cat in a boat--both of which could be moved--'Hope the waves behave purr-fectly, When you're on the high C's!" Then, (I may not be giving these in order) a tiny framed Maxfield Parrish picture, then the book--Rogets International Thesaurus of Words and Phrases--which I had been wanting. Ruth had it and gave me her copy which is a nice leather bound one and I'm so proud of it. Then a pink silk combination from Abe and Ellie. And then the Maxfield Parrish picture Edna sent. It is simply adorable and I'm crazy about it. And a package of dates labeled "To be opened when you cross the Inter-

national Date Line." How I laughed over that! And a series of Little Leather Library books from Blaine's mother--all but one of which are new to me. And some lovely stationery from Fay and Blaine, and letters from you and Edna. There are still a couple or three packages and a handful of letters to open. I open them each morning just after breakfast. I may have opened one or two packages before I noticed the date on it but mostly I've not been too curious and have waited faithfully.

One of the steamer letters from a woman in Oil City had a $10.00 draft in it, too.

I've weathered the trip pretty well so far--was in bed one day because of discomfort but we've really had a very lovely trip. Everyone who has ever crossed before says it is very calm. I don't mind the vibration of the boat or even the roll from side to side--which occurs about every ten seconds or so--but when it begins to go up and down forewards and backwards it makes me feel queer. I haven't vomited at all--I wouldn't let myself because once the gradient of peristalsis is started upwards, its hard to reverse. I kept the gradient always downward.

The wideness of the ocean hasn't really made such a deep impression--only in retrospect. Of course, all one can see from horizon to horizon is water--but one's horizon is always round and always has some sort of sameness no matter where one is. It is only when thinking of the same horizon for day after day that one realizes the immensity of the ocean. The water is a deep blue when the sun shines but a dark, dull gray when it is cloudy. Clear nights are beautiful and the moon path across the water is gorgeous. Wish I could take a picture of it. Said so last nite to Mr. French and he said facetiously--Just a minute, I'll have the Captain stop the ship so you can get it!

The passengers are all interesting--some more so than others. Just next cabin to ours are two priests going to Japan. One is redhaired and looks awfully interesting but I've not been able to get acquainted yet! The French's who are going to Hainan, too, are interesting as ever. He is such a clean-cut good looking lad that the ladies all like him and she is sweet, too, tho' not as nice looking as he is. Mrs. Fisher is an old lady who has spent most of her life in Japan under the Baptist board. She is retired now but is going back to visit a son who is in Tokyo. She is full of fun and stories. Miss Bixby whom I had known in New York is a fine sailor and a good sport--ready for fun or serious mood whichever one wishes. These two, Mrs. Fisher and Miss Bixby are at the same table with Miss Jacobson (my cabin mate) and I. The fifth person is Miss Clause. She is going to Tokyo under the Baptist board, too--has been a librarian in Cleveland, Ohio and is attractive but awfully homesick and until the last day or so has not felt well and has talked about it until we were almost ready to wish her back in Cleveland! Miss Jacobson is nice--I find that her father is a minister, teaching Bible in Coe University at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is going out to teach music and seems well prepared. We get along beautifully.

There are several missionary families aboard returning. The Iglehart's go to Japan. Mr. Iglehart has a lovely tenor voice and sang in the quartet at church yesterday. She is a gray-haired lady who looks rather worn and weary with the care of the youngsters--the baby is about two years of age. The Clines are an interesting family group. He is rather short and dark and so is she, but Mrs. Cline is his second wife, the sister of his former wife, going back with him and his family of four. She looks sort of scared but has a nice way with the youngsters. The youngest is about six. I hope for her sake, there won't be more too soon.

Dr. Dunlap goes to the Philippines. He is a fine fellow to have around--full of fun and stories--is tall and dark--is the man who has promoted most of the athletics in the Orient so far. He is chaplain of the boat for this trip. I understand he will get a liberal salary for it, too. His wife had to stay in the States because of her health and his son and daughter are in college in Iowa so he has taken all the girls who are traveling alone under his wing and is generally helpful to all in a variety of ways. There are other interesting people aboard but I haven't got acquainted with many.

There is a group including the navy officers and wives and some others who constitute the gay group who do most of the dancing and betting on the games and races and so on. There is dancing every evening at dinner. The orchestra plays some dance music when dinner is about half over and this group dance a while and then eat some more and dance again. The French's danced a time or two and someone in the missionary group said something to Dr. Dunlap relative to his not managing his new missionaries better (he is Presbyterian, too) The word was passed on to the Frenches and Mrs. French said 'I can't see the difference between our dancing and Dr. Warnshuis (their critic) smoking a cigar over there!' Which I tho't a good reply--I can't approve of either, inasmuch as both the French's and Dr. Warnshuis are in the missionary group and are being watched by the non-religious element. Oh, well!

I haven't done all the reading I should for the journey being as far spent as it is--but I have put in some good licks at sleeping. Seems to me I'm sleepy all the time-- and inasmuch as I haven't anything else that has to be done, I spend considerable time lying down--resting, if not sleeping, tho' usually the latter.

I'm finding my clothes adequate for the occasion tho' the majority of the passengers have far more than I do. I have worn the blue silk with the full skirt to dinner all but two evenings and then I wore that old black sleeveless thing. The majority of the women wear evening or semi-formal clothes to dinner each evening but I don't feel comfortable without sleeves so I wear 'em. The Captain's dinner comes this Wednesday and then everyone is supposed to come in as nearly formal dress as they have. I'll wear my blue chiffon then, I guess.

Miss Jacobson has at least four evening dresses and several semi-formal dresses so she is dressed up every evening. She looks nice in her evening clothes too. She is crazy about dancing but feels she shouldn't and when the music starts she really feels quite badly. I'm sorry she feels that way--it is making her trip harder for her. Oh, well!

Thank you for your share in my daily packages and surprises--I like them a lot. Will say Adios now--tho' may add more later. Love to all of you.

Yours--
Esther

P. S:
The menus with their notes will give you a consecutive idea of the daily events--or so I hope. After these reach you the next letters may take longer but I do hope you won't worry about it at all. So far everything is going very well.
Esther

* * * * *

(9-1-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong

Dear Folks: This has been another gray day. The boat began to rock again this PM like it did several days ago but I have held my own and it is now 11:00 PM so think I will weather it. The promenade deck is all enclosed and even then one can occasionally feel spray coming thro' somewhere. Someone referred to it as typical Japanese weather--so I guess it is to be expected. Three more days to Yokohama.

This was the nite of the program--called the High Seas Vaudeville.

Lieutenant-Commander Price, U. S. N. was master of ceremonies and started things out with a few sleight of hand and card tricks. Then the orchestra gave a number. Then Mrs. Davis, wife of another Lt. Commander on board, gave an interpretive dance, assisted by Dr. Yeager who was under the table and was radio announcer and played a Victrola there--the music purporting to come from New York thro the radio on the table! The quartet sang 'My Love lies dreaming.' Dr. Pettus read a selection from the book about negroes from which the play "Green Pastures" was written. It was a very humorous selection and makes me want to get the book. I can't recall the title now but will find out what it is before I leave the boat.

Then Miss Thornton sang "My Love is a Fisherman." She is a girl going to Japan under the Canadian Board--is very attractive and has a nice sweet high lyric soprano voice. Next my cabinmate played 'Rhapsodie' by Dahnanyi--a concert piece--and she did it very well. Then Mrs. Camilio Osias sang a Philippine song. Her voice is nice but not as good as the voice of the Filipino girl I heard in N. Y. last winter. Miss Abelarra had

an outstanding voice--I can hear it yet! There was a sort of mind reading stunt by two fellows and then Dr. Dunlap gave a demonstration of a seasick lady. Then a Miss Mitchell played a Cradle Song and a Miss Sweet sang two Hawaiian songs and danced a hula dance--in grass skirt and all! It was quite nice. The last number was a vocal solo "Homing"--the one "All things come home at eventide." It was well done. The whole program was quite nice and for most part arranged on the spur of the moment. It was over about 10:30 and we walked about the enclosed deck for half an hour before coming down. Must now say Adios and get to bed.

Yours--

Esther

- - - - - - - -

(9-2-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson En Route to Hongkong

Dear Ruth:

This has been a rather nice day--have been awfully tired tho'. It was sunny most of the day and the ship's doctor showed a group of us thro' part of the ship. We saw the 'bridge' where the Captain commands the vessel as it goes into a port--the wheel and the automatic control which is used while in the open sea. The course is indicated on some machine and an electrical device started and the wheel is held on the course automatically. I don't understand it fully but was impressed by the idea anyway. We saw also the wireless room--there are 3 wireless operators doing 8 hour shifts.

Adios--

Esther.

- - - - - - - -

(9-2-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong.

Dear Polly: Today several of us went way out to the very front of the ship, 'til looking over we could see the prow, or is it bow, cutting the waves. It was sunny and bright and the waves were quite smooth--the sea was as blue as blue could be. I liked it--looking as far as one could and seeing level stretches of water.

The ship's doctor showed us over part of the ship--we saw the room where the compass was--where the course is charted and the log kept. The log is the book where everything of note aboard ship is written down. If a man dies or is ill or goes overboard, if the sea is smooth or rough, if there is engine trouble--all must be written down.

We saw several sharks yesterday, too, and some fish that probably were flying fish but they were too far away to be sure. I read your letter today and certainly enjoyed it.

Your

Aunt Esther.

(9-3-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson — En Routa to Hongkong

Dear Polly: We saw a Japanese fishing boat today--it looked quite Oriental and picturesque.

Had a shampoo this afternoon and what do you think it cost --$1.50! But it was worth it--my hair was getting stiff!

The Captain's dinner tonite was a lovely affair. Everyone wore paper caps and had balloons and favors at our places. There were two horns on every table and I got one of those. Am sending you the cap that was in the favor when I pulled it open. Best wishes to you--

Aunt Esther.

. . . . .

(9-3-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson — En Route to Hongkong

Dear Dick: We saw a Japanese fishing boat this morning so we must be getting closer to Japan. We only had 900 miles yesterday noon and we have been running about 350 miles each day so in another two days we'll be in Yokohama.

This is a hot day and it has been raining off and on this morning. Doesn't it seem odd to think of it's raining on the ocean where there is already so much water? We've run into and out of three such showers since breakfast.

The officers and stewards have put on white uniforms so we know we are in warmer climates. They look so cool in white.

Yours-- Aunt Esther

. . . . .

Sept. 3, 1930

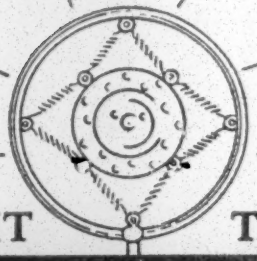
Dear A. C:

I'm getting lazier and lazier--slept a while this PM and then had a shampoo. Tonite is the Captain's dinner and everyone is getting all dressed up and so must I. So more--later.

It was a very nice affair. The dining room was decorated with big flags of all nations over the ports and strings of little flags from the ceiling. Japanese lanterns covered the lights. Papers caps were at each place as well as favors, balloons and toy horns. The place was noisy soon and the dancing began early. When that was going on the steward began to throw serpentine out over the dancers and let the tables near the floor do similarly. The dancers were soon all wound up in the stuff--but it looked pretty anyway.

When dinner was nearly over the prizes for the deck and other sports were given out. They ranged from perfume, manicure sets and pens to cards and a doughnut!

RADIO NEWS FROM ALL THE WORLD



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O L D H I C K O R Y "T H E J A C K S O N A N V I L"

W e d n e s d a y
September 3, 1930

SS PRESIDENT JACKSON

Capt. John Griffith
Commander

GOOD MORNING

Clocks were retarded 35 minutes during the night.

LOST: A book entitled "Seed", highly valued by owner. Please return to Purser's Office.

SPECIAL NOTICE: All athletic events must be completed by 4:00 P.M. today. It is desired that semifinals be run off in the morning and the finals to start not later than 2:00 P.M. so that the winners of the various events may be announced by not later than 4:00 P.M. The kind consideration of this request by participants will be greatly appreciated.

THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

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NOTICE: All Yokohama passengers who desire to have access to their trunks in Baggage Room, please see Baggage Clerk before noon tomorrow.

* * * * *

Washington — Babe Ruth is definitely out of the Yankee lineup for the remainder of the series with the Senators as a result of a strained back, and there is some doubt that he will be able to take part in the doubleheader between the Yankees and the Mackmen in New York Monday. Official announcement here today was to the effect that Ruth hoped to be able to play in the Monday game.

Los Angeles — Complete recovery from her asserted nervous collapse assured, Aimee Semple McPherson was today preparing to return to her pulpit at Angelus Temple.

Washington — More than sixty persons were prostrated by the heat as they watched the Labor Day parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Seville — Charles G. Dawes, American Ambassador to Great Britain passed the last day of his tour of Spain's prehistoric realm visiting Roman antiquities in and around Seville and having luncheon with Prince Alfonso of Orleans and his wife, the Princess Beatriz. The Ambassador will go to Paris tonight.

Turner, Ore. — Five women, all related, were killed today when their automobile was struck by a northbound Southern Pacific passenger train near here.

Tromsoe, Nowway — Reports published in other countries to the effect that Captain Gustav Jensen's story of the discoveries of the Andree Arctic expedition on White Island by Dr. Gunnar Horn were untrue, and Jensen admitted it, met with widespread and indignant denial in all quarters of Norway.

Brooklyne, Mass. — Hard driving George Lott of Chicago and Johnny Doeg, California giant, wasted all of their fury against Wilmer Allison

and Johnny Van Ryn before resorting to lobs to retain their doubles tennis championship. The defeated the stubborn British titilists 8-6, 6-3, 4-6, 13-15, 6-4, here today in the final round at Longwood.

Kansas City Fire which swept the plant of the Hogan Milling Co., following an explosion, had killed one man today, wiped out all traces of another and slightly injured a third.

Rochester A soundless "Talkie" has been filmed for the deaf mutes, it was announced today. The dialogue is entirely in sign language. Amateur theatrical movies for deaf mute audiences are planned by Max Lubin, chairman of the League's literary committee, who has become a cameraman for this particular kind of production.

Shanghai Foreign women and children were fleeing from Changsha, Hunan province, today because of the increasing menace of five thousand communists approaching the city with the evident intention of attempting to recapture it. The refugees were enroute to Hankow. With no protection except a weakened garrison of provincial troops of doubtful loyalty to Changsha, it was felt to be imperative to evacuate as many foreigners as possible to avoid the consequence of an attack such as hordes of communists recently made on the city when foreign property was looted and burned.

Los Angeles Rosetta and Vivian, who dance and act for the stage and screen have failed either to move or pay rent, it was charged by the Bradbury estate Company in a suit filed here today. The plaintiff asks judgment for seven hundred dollars and surrender of the Santa Monica canyon cottage which the sisters have been occupying.

Rumania Queen Marie arrived here today from the Jugoslavian summer palace at Bled with the intention of attempting a further reconciliation between King Carol and Queen Helen. It was denied in authoritative quarters that Queen Helen would enter a convent.

San Francisco Every section of Alameda county if for the trans-bay bridge to connect San Francisco and Alameda county via the Yerba Buena Island route, as determined by the Hoover Young Bay Bridge Commission. Senator Arthur H. Breed of Alameda county who represented the east bay district on the commission of nine reported yesterday that he had found no opposition to the bridge. Breed had just completed a tour of the county in the interest of his own candidacy for reelection. He said, "Ifound very much interest manifested in the San Francisco Bay bridge project. I have yet to find opposition".

Saratoga Springs Dashing over six and one half furlongs within three fifths of a second of the world's record, Gifford A. Cochran's "Epithet" today became an outstanding candidate for two year championship honors as he lowered the standard of George L. Widener's heretofore underrated "Jamestown" in the winning of the twenty sixth running of the Hopeful Stakes with a driving finish.

Budapest One person was killed here today in riots which were precipitated when police undertook to break up a parade of Socialists.

Cleveland Six great balloons are ready here today to take off in the annual race for the Gordon Bennett international trophy.

Altoona Billy Arnold today won the annual Labor Day automobile speed race over the great Altoona track.

Oklahoma City Four persons were arrested here today for attempting to stage Labor Day demonstrations after police disbursed a large sodialist meeting.

Los Angeles Dr. H.E.Schiffbaur today stated that Senate Pres. Manuel L. Quezon of the Philippines, who is under his care, is making notable progress in his fight to regain his health.

Los Angeles Police today dispersed three hundred communists who attempted to stage a demonstration in connection with the annual observance of Labor Day.

Agua Caliente Miss Alexander, noted aviatrix, today made a non stop flight from Vancouver B.C. to Agua Caliente in sixteen hours.

Brest Treasure in fabulour quantity today was found deep under the water off Brest when divers located the sunken steamship "Egypt".

Chicago Another life was lost here today in the national air races when Captain Arthur H. Page dashed to earth while flying at a speed of 201 miles per hour.

Detroit Driving "Miss America IX" Gar Wood today won the Harmsworth trophy for motor boat races.

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NOTICE

We arrive at Yokohama early Friday morning and sail at 6:00 P.M., arriving Kobe Saturday afternoon at 4:00 P.M., sailing shortly after midnight.

An interesting detour for passengers going on beyond Yokohama is the side trip from Yokohama to Kobe by rail. There are three possible arrangements, two of which allow a full day in Kyoto, the ancient capitol of Japan, for sightseeing. You may leave Yokohama at 10:35 A.M. the morning of arrival, reaching Kyoto at 8:03 P.M., spend the night and all day Saturday in Kyoto, continuing on to Kobe Saturday evening to return to the ship before midnight. Or you may spend Friday in Yokohama or Tokyo, taking one of the night trains to Kyoto where you arrive in the morning, spend Saturday in Kyoto and on to Kobe in the evening. Or you may spend Friday and Friday night in Yokohama and Tokyo, going straight through to Kobe on the Saturday morning train.

The rail ticket, if purchased aboard ship, costs $5.75, about three dollars less than at the railroad office. To this must be added an extra fare charge of about three dollars for the morning train, or about an equal charge for sleeping car accommodations on the night train. This can be arranged at the railroad booking office, American Express, or Thomas Cook's. If you intend to make this trip, please advise the Purser's Office today or tomorrow.

Several forms will be left in your room this afternoon. One is a small white card bearing your name and a number. Please hand it to the Quarantine Coctor when we arrive Friday morning. It is an identification card, and by their use we can eliminate the annoyance of lining up passengers for quarantine mus ter. The other is an information slip for the Japanese immigration inspectors, who will be aboard as soon as the Quarantine Doctor is finished. One of these slips must be made out for every man, woman and child first class passenger, regardless of destination or whether you intend to go ashore at Yokohama, and is to be handed personally to the passport inspector. For Yokohama passengers only there will be a Baggage Declaration, Book Declaration, and Tobacco Delcaration. They are to be filled in and presented to the Customs when clearing your baggage

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Sept 3, 1930.

Dear SC:

Its getting lazier & lazier - slept
while this PM & then had a shampoo.
Tonite is the Captain's dinner & every
one is getting all dressed up & so
must I. So more - later!

It was a very nice affair. The
dining room was decorated w big
flags of all nations over the port
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Paper caps were at each place as
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When dinner was nearly over t
prizes for the deck & other sports
were given out. They ranged fr
perfume, manicure sets & pens to
cards & a doughnut!

Then everyone gave ramsin
cheer for the Captain - & the big

They enclose
your address it
thanks.

letter is for Dave - will
& send it please? Many

Then everyone gave a rousing cheer for the Captain--and the big event of the voyage was over. The moon was pretty so most everyone came on deck and admired it, etc. There was some dancing later, too, but it was most too hot for much of it.

Adios

Esther

. . . . . .

(9-3-30)

On Board S. S. President Jackson

En Route to Hongkong

Dear Folks:

I may be repeating myself in some of these missives to you but I hope not badly.

This menu for the Captain's dinner is a bit more elaborate than most--even so I felt it wiser to omit the 1st, 3rd, and 4th courses and had a lovely meal as it was. 'Twas a gay time --everyone in gayest and newest clothes. I saw for the first time the men's formal dinner clothes of the tropics--boiled shirt, white waistcoat and white coat that comes only to the waist. Dr. Dunlap says they are called 'monkey jackets' and they sure enough look funny. There were some lovely evening gowns--quite a few of lace. Satin was the next predominating fabric and then chiffon.

When the prizes for sports were given out Miss Gueuerra, the Filipino girl was the only girl to win two prizes--in shuffle-board and in deck quoits.

Adios---

Esther

. . . . . .

September 3rd

Dear Dad and A. C:

Yesterday was an interesting day but also a tiring one. In the afternoon the ship's doctor showed us around the ship--all but the engine room. He said we'd have to get the Chief Engineer to do that for us. We saw the compass--both magnetic and electrical--the chart where the course is indicated each day, the log, the fire alarm system, the wireless room, the gyroscope which controls the vessel's balance, the kitchens, etc. We weren't permitted to see the cold storage rooms or the steerage. We can look down on the steerage deck and watch them, the Chinese and Filipino passengers, when they can be out but we aren't permitted to go down lest inadvertlently some disease they might have should be contracted and keep us all in quarantine--to say nothing of the possibility of more dire results. The Doctor said the quota of steerage passengers carried on trips to the U. S. had been reduced to half because of an epidemic of meningitis--that there are accomodations for several hundred steerage passengers, all told. There are 4 cooks for the 1st class galley and 4 for the steerage galley.

It hardly seems possible that so many people can be stowed away down there. The Doctor said also that part of the cargo this trip was silver bullion--he mentioned the quantity in thousands of tons--but perhaps I misunderstood him, for that seems scarcely credible. He said that once the President Jefferson carried a couple of million in gold from the Orient in one trip. Of course bullion doesn't take up much space for its value!

Last nite we had movies again and they were the best yet. The comedy was a Hal Roach production with all the kids he usually has in on his comedies. The feature was William Haines in "Navy Blues". It was fairly good.

This AM I wakened early with a sense of oppresive heat. When we went to breakfast we found the stewards all in white uniforms--and the deck stewards also; proof, I judge, that we are getting into tropic climates. When we went on deck we found it raining hard. In a short time it cleared--rather we ran out of the shower--and the sun shone brightly. Soon we were in another shower, and then a third. It is interesting to see gray sky ahead and sun behind. It is so moist that pleats simply fall out of clothes.

We saw a Japanese fishing boat this AM so we must be getting closer to the land. We had only 900 miles more yesterday noon and it must be about 350 miles less now.

Adios--for now.

Yours
Esther

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(9-4-30)
On Board S. S. President Jackson — En Route to Hongkong

Dear Dick:

This has been an uneventful day for most part. People who are getting off at Yokohama tomorrow are packing or resting--everyone else is writing letters.

It has been a lovely day and a beautiful evening. We sat on deck a long time and watched the moon and the water and listened to stories Dr. Dunlap and Mrs. Fisher told of their many years in foreign lands. Dr. Dunlap had seen 23 years in the Philippines and Mrs Fisher first went to Japan 40 years ago.

E. Morse

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Somewhere in the
Pacific but nearing
Japan
September 4, 1930

Dear Ruth:

I wanted to send a little personal note as well as all the menus I've sent under separate cover. I'm sending them

to you at South Prairie and hope you are there--or near enough to share them with Dad and A. C. I'm sending daily messages on menus to Alice's children, too, so you won't need to send them there--but I counted on Dad and A. C. seeing yours.

Hope you have had some rest--tho' if there has been much visiting, I know you haven't. Will be interested to know what has been going on. I can readily see how correspondence is going to be rather a 'drawn-out' process, eh what!

Thank you heaps for the gifts and cards in my daily packages. I am delighted with them all. This is the first sheet of this stationery I'm using--have used ship's stationery mostly, but tho't I'd like to send at least one on this pretty paper. And--the Roget Thesaurus--many many thanks--only I think you shouldn't have given me yours. It is a lovely volume. Have had a lot of fun with all the gifts. Clayton's book 'fish preferred' is a scream from start to finish. The dates are nearly gone--they certainly drew a hearty Haha! And thanks a heap for the films--that was today's package. They will be called into use at once. I had wanted some prints finished before now so I could mail them with these letters but couldn't get pictures taken because of the cloudy weather.

We plan to go ashore tomorrow in Yokohama and go up to Tokyo for the day--we'll be in port, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. About 6 or 8 are planning to go together.

Have put on the blue dotted voile dress today--it is such warm weather anything else is sweltering. Am so glad I have the voile dresses. I can see they will all be in use long before I get to Hainan.

The writing room has been quite deserted until the last day or so--now everyone is busy with last minute messages to mail them in Japan. That will be about two weeks earlier than messages from Hainan!

The kiddies are enjoying the swimming tank this AM. The tank wasn't filled until 2 days ago--it was too cool to go in.

The woman who gave me the shampoo yesterday said this boat laid over 5 days in Manila and then returned to the US via Honolulu to San Francisco--laid over in S. F. for 10 days and then came out for Seattle via the northern route. The layover in Seattle is always two weeks. This vessel won't be in Seattle again until sometime in November. Quite a routine, isn't it?

Take care of yourself--write all the happenings. Much love to you. Yours--

Esther